

Public Testimony to the Appropriations Subcommittee of Higher Education on Governor's
Proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget, H.B. 6659
In support of restoring Connecticut Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) funding

February 14, 2022

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Berthel, Representative Nuccio, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Christopher Lynch, School Counselor at EC Goodwin Technical High School. The YHSC representatives have been serving Goodwin through small group activities, health lessons, and college and career presentations for many, many years now. For the past 21 years the Connecticut AHEC Network has successfully leveraged collaborations and partnerships with key stakeholders with a focus on Connecticut's health care workforce. They have been dedicated and committed to reducing and eliminating health disparities by collaborating and creating partnerships with organizations that aim to improve healthcare access both on a national and statewide level.

Unfortunately, Governor Lamont's budget proposal removes Connecticut Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) direct funding, and along with it hinders their ability to continue supporting communities to thrive. I ask that you restore AHEC line in the budget so that they can continue support healthcare workforce development in the state.

Sincerely,

Christopher D. Lynch

Christopher D. Lynch
School Counselor